

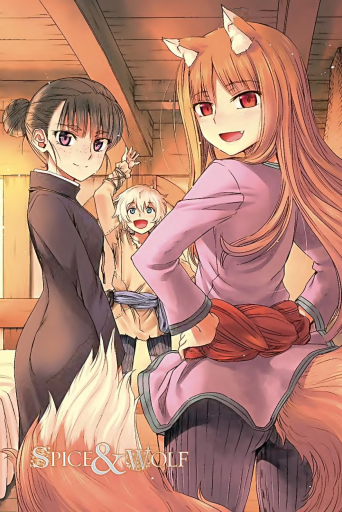
STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA  
ART: KEITO KOUME  
CHARACTER DESIGN:  
JYUU AYAKURA

# SPICE & WOLF

VOL. 12

PARENTAL ADVISORY  
**WARNING**  
EXPLICIT CONTENT





SPICE & WOLF

# SPICE & WOLF

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SO YOU'RE FROM TEREQ AS WELL, THEN, SIR?

NO, I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING THROUGH AND WAS ABLE TO BE OF SOME SMALL ASSISTANCE.



...HE ONCE CAME TO MY VILLAGE'S AID.

OH HOH!



フム



AHEM!

AH, I SEE. MY GOODNESS.



THIS IS A GENERAL STORE, NOT A TAVERN. MIGHT I ASK YOU TO CELEBRATE YOUR REUNION ELSEWHERE?

AH, APOLOGIES!







SORRY  
TO INTRUDE,  
BUT...



ER...







DON'T THEY  
SAY GOOD  
DEEDS DONE  
HERE ON EARTH  
WILL STORE  
UP WEALTH  
IN HEAVEN?



WE HAVE  
NO MEANS  
TO REPAY  
YOU.



WE SHALL  
IMPOSE  
UPON YOU,  
THEN.



THERE  
MAY WELL  
BE OTHERS  
WHO COME  
STAGGERING  
DRUNKENLY  
IN, BUT—

OF  
COURSE  
I DO  
NOT  
MIND!



I SUPPOSE  
I OUGHT  
TO HELP  
AS WELL.

IF IT'S  
JUST YOU,  
SIR, YOU  
MAY STAY  
HERE.



WONDERFUL

THIS  
CERTAINLY  
IS A  
BURDEN  
OFF MY  
CHEST!  
SPLENDID,  
SPLENDID!





I AM CALLED  
LE ROI, A  
BOOKSELLER.



I AM KRAFT  
LAWRENCE,  
TRAVELING  
MERCHANT.

!



THE ONES  
WITH ME ARE  
HOLD THE  
NUN AND COL  
THE ASPIRING  
CHURCH LAW  
STUDENT.

THAT MUST  
MAKE FOR  
A RARE AND  
PLEASANT  
JOURNEY!



LE ROI!?



MR. LE ROI,  
YOU SEEM TO  
GET ALONG  
VERY WELL  
WITH MR.  
PHILON.

Y-YES!  
VERY MUCH  
SO! SINCE  
I'M TRYING  
TO SELL  
BIBLES TO  
MERCENARIES!



I'D LOVE  
TO ASK HIM  
ABOUT THE  
FORBIDDEN  
TEXT RIGHT  
HERE...BUT  
IT'S NOT  
THE TIME.

HA  
HA  
HA!



MR. LE ROI,  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I'D LIKE TO  
ASK YOU...

SO MR.  
PHILON IS  
AN OLD  
FRIEND OF  
MINE!



OH  
HOH...!

...I HAD COME  
TO MR. PHILON'S  
WITH A QUESTION,  
BUT I WASN'T  
SURE HOW TO  
RAISE THE ISSUE.







I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR  
SOMEONE.



THE  
REASON I  
LEFT THE  
VILLAGE?

YES.  
TO BE  
HONEST,  
I JUST CAN'T  
FIGURE  
IT OUT.



I'M  
SEARCHING  
FOR A MAN  
OF THE CLOTH  
TO TAKE OVER  
DUTIES AT MY  
CHURCH.



...THANKS  
TO YOU,  
THE FLAME  
OF FAITH  
HAS BEEN  
REKINDLED  
IN TERO.

MOREOVER,  
YOUR  
INCREDIBLE  
POWER  
DESTROYED  
ENBERCH'S  
SCHEMES.



BUT...





OF COURSE.  
MY FATHER,  
FATHER FRANZ,  
LEFT THE CHURCH  
IN MY CARE. I  
MUST FIND AN  
INDIVIDUAL  
WORTHY OF  
THAT TRUST.



YOU NEED  
TO FIND  
SOMEONE  
WHO'LL  
MEASURE  
UP TO YOU,  
THEN?



HUH. THAT'S  
A RATHER  
GOOD IDEA.



I WANT  
TO MEET HIM  
AND GET A  
RECOMMENDATION  
FOR WHO  
MIGHT TAKE  
THE POSITION  
IN HIS PLACE.



...I WAS  
TURNED  
DOWN BY  
SOMEONE IN  
THE LETTER  
OF RECOM-  
MENDATION  
TO MY  
FATHER.

SKIPPING  
SOME  
MINOR  
DETAILS...





EVEN IF NOT,  
IT'S POSSIBLE  
HE CAN  
INTRODUCE YOU  
TO SOMEONE  
TRUSTWORTHY.

MAYBE HE'LL  
CHANGE HIS  
MIND AFTER  
MEETING YOU  
IN PERSON,  
MISS ELISA.



IT'S SAYING,  
IF YOU DON'T  
WANT TO DO  
IT YOURSELF,  
COUGH UP  
SOMEONE  
BETTER.



THAT'S THE  
PRIMARY  
REASON FOR  
MY TRAVELS,  
BUT...



THAT MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
A DIFFICULT  
DECISION  
TO MAKE.



I'VE  
BECOME  
AWARE OF  
HOW TRULY  
IGNORANT OF  
THE WORLD  
I AM.

I WAS  
HOPING THIS  
JOURNEY  
WOULD GIVE  
ME A CHANCE  
TO SEE MORE  
OF IT.



THAT  
BOOK-  
SELLER,  
YOU MEAN?



OF COURSE,  
I THOUGHT  
TO GIVE UP ON  
IT MANY TIMES,  
BUT I'VE HAD  
GOD'S GUIDANCE  
ALL THE WAY.



I CAN SEE  
WHY YOU  
WOULD  
THINK SO.



YOU SEEM TO  
ENCOUNTER  
THE  
STRANGEST  
PEO—

—ER.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.



NO  
MATTER  
HOW SILLY  
OR GREEDY  
HE MIGHT  
APPEAR  
TO BE.

IF FATHER  
TRUSTED HIM,  
THEN I OUGHT  
TO TRUST  
HIM TOO.



I HAD ONLY  
MET HIM ONCE  
BEFORE, BUT I  
KNEW HE WAS  
A LONGTIME  
ACQUAINTANCE  
OF MY  
FATHER'S.

AND IN  
FATHER'S LETTERS,  
IT WAS WRITTEN  
THAT THIS WAS  
A MAN I COULD  
TRUST IN TIMES  
OF HARDSHIP.



SO WHAT YOU  
MEAN IS THAT  
HE'S AFTER  
FATHER FRANZ'S  
LIBRARY, THEN?

YES. YOU  
MIGHT SAY  
HIS AVARICE  
IS WHERE HIS  
SINCERITY  
COMES  
FROM.



I ONLY SPOKE  
TO HIM A LITTLE  
EARLIER, BUT HE  
SEEMS A RATHER  
SINCERE MAN.



HE'S TRIED  
EVERYTHING HE  
CAN THINK OF  
TO GET ME TO  
TELL HIM WHERE  
FATHER FRANZ'S  
LIBRARY IS...

...BUT  
ALWAYS  
AMICABLY.



I REALIZED  
THERE'S NO  
GREAT DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN BEING  
FAITHFUL TO YOUR  
OWN AVARICE AND  
BEING FAITHFUL TO  
THE TEACHINGS  
OF GOD.









A  
QUESTION?



BORROWING  
THE POWER OF  
MY COMPANION  
WILL NOT  
MAKE THAT  
WEAKNESS  
DISAPPEAR.

...I'VE  
BECOME  
PAINFULLY  
AWARE OF  
JUST HOW  
POWERLESS  
I AM.



THE QUESTION  
OF WHY, WHEN  
YOU HAVE SUCH  
POWER, YOU WOULD  
CHOOSE EVEN  
NOW TO TRAVEL  
WITH A SIMPLE  
HORSE-DRAWN  
WAGON.

YES.



SO I TRY  
TO RELY ON  
MY OWN  
ABILITIES.  
OR...





WHENEVER  
I'VE  
EMBARRASSED  
MYSELF, IT'S  
BECAUSE I  
BROKE THIS  
RULE.



...OR ASK FOR  
HER HELP IN  
ADDITION TO MY  
STRENGTHS.

EVERY  
MERCHANT  
KNOWS NOT  
TO PUT SOME-  
THING BIG IN A  
SMALL BOWL.



THEY SAY  
THE WORLD  
IS VAST, AND  
IT'S TRUE.



...THAT  
WE HAVE  
BEEN ABLE  
TO MEET  
AGAIN.

I GIVE  
THANKS  
TO GOD...



I SEE  
THERE ARE  
SOME ISSUES  
WITH COL'S  
TABLE  
MANNERS.



INCIDENTALLY...



THIS  
CANNOT BE  
SUFFICIENT  
THANKS,  
BUT...

...I MAY BE  
ABLE TO HELP  
HIM LEARN  
THE PROPER  
WAY TO EAT.



THAT  
GOES FOR  
YOU TOO.

HUM?



HEH!

WAAH...



IT'S ALL RIGHT.  
THERE WAS ONE  
IN MY VILLAGE  
WITH A VERY  
BAD MEMORY,  
BUT EVEN HE  
LEARNED.



← KKKKK  
Lp  
K





BUT HE THOUGHT  
IT MIGHT BE IN THE  
HUGE FORESTS  
IN THE REGION  
AROUND MT. ROEF.

IT SEEMED  
MR. PHILON,  
WORKING  
AS AN INTER-  
MEDIARY FOR  
MERCENARIES,  
HADN'T HEARD  
OF YOTSU.

I'LL ASK  
MORE  
SPECIFIC  
QUESTIONS  
ONCE  
THE MAP  
ARRIVES.



RUMOR HAD  
IT, THE DEBAL  
COMPANY MIGHT  
START A WAR TO  
SEIZE NORTHERN  
MINING RIGHTS  
FOR ITSELF...

SEPARATELY,  
HE'D HEARD  
MERCENARIES  
WERE  
GATHERING  
IN THE  
NORTHERN  
TOWN OF  
LENSO.





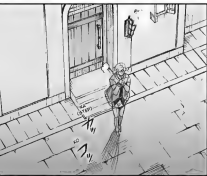
NO...

...I SHALL  
LEAVE THAT  
TO YOU.

I SEE.



I'M GOING  
TO MEET  
LE ROI.  
COMING?



AYE...





WELL,  
WELL!

HA  
HA  
HA



BECAUSE  
YOU SELL  
EVEN  
BIBLES?

MR. LE ROI,  
DO YOU  
SELL ANTIQUE  
BOOKS AS  
WELL?



I COULDN'T  
FACE THE  
FATHER  
THEN.

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA



HELENA!  
BRING  
SOME  
ALE!

COMING!







YOU  
DIDN'T LOOK  
LIKE THE KIND  
OF MERCHANT  
TO CHASE SUCH  
TALES, MR.  
LAWRENCE.



...BUT  
DIDN'T  
SEEM TO  
HAVE PUT  
OUT A  
REWARD.



THE DEBAU  
COMPANY, WHICH  
RUNS THE  
MINING TOWNS  
OF THE NORTH,  
SPREAD ITS  
NET AROUND  
KERUBE...



I'VE  
HEARD OF  
THE RUMORS  
OF A BOOK  
THAT WAS A  
HOT TOPIC  
IN KERUBE  
FOR A TIME.



I HAVE...  
STRONG  
FEELINGS  
TOWARD  
THE  
NORTH.



I HAVE A  
PERSONAL  
STAKE IN  
THIS.



ARE YOU  
FROM THE  
NORTH  
YOURSELF?



SOME PEOPLE  
DON'T WANT  
UNLIMITED  
MINING  
DEVELOPMENT.



IF NOTHING  
ELSE, I WANT  
TO KEEP IT  
OUT OF  
THE DEBAU  
COMPANY'S  
HANDS.



...YOU  
WERE TO  
SELL THAT  
BOOK, MR.  
LE ROI...

IF...

...WHAT  
WOULD THE  
TERMS BE,  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE?



...AHH!

I SEE,  
THEN.



I'M NOT,  
BUT MY TWO  
TRAVELING  
COMPANIONS  
ARE.



...I EXPECT  
THE  
MARKET  
FOR IT TO  
BE QUITE  
ROBUST.

YES,  
WELL...



I'M SURE  
THIS WILL SELL  
FOR AT LEAST  
THAT MUCH.

FROM  
WHAT I'VE  
HEARD...

...THE BOOK  
GOD AND THE  
HEART OF IRON  
WRITTEN BY THE  
ALCHEMIST ALAN  
MIKHAI SOLD  
FOR A HUNDRED  
GOLD LUMONES.



WHAT ABOUT...  
CONDITIONS  
WHEN DECIDING ON  
A BUYER?



A...  
HUNDRED,  
YOU SAY?

GOOD  
GRAB?

3  
7  
...



CERTAINLY...  
SINCE BEING  
CONSPICUOUS  
WOULD BE  
BAD.



NORMALLY  
I'D SELL IF I'D  
EARN EVEN ONE  
SEN IN PROFIT...  
BUT I CAN'T  
LEARN THE TRUE  
MARKET VALUE  
OF A BOOK  
LIKE THIS.



BOOK  
TRADES  
TAKE MANY  
FORMS...  
SUCH AS  
BRINGING A  
BUYER...

...AND A SELLER  
TOGETHER FOR  
A FACE-TO-  
FACE DEAL.

BUT EVEN  
A BIT UNDER  
THAT IS STILL  
QUITE A SUM.



I TAKE  
IT BOOKS  
ARE VERY  
HARD TO  
PROCURE.

SO THE FACT  
BOOKSELLERS  
WANT THIS ONE SO  
BADLY IS PROOF  
ITS VALUE IS  
SO HIGH.



BUT I'VE HEARD  
THE BOOK WAS  
LOST IN A FIRE...  
PERHAPS YOU  
NEED NOT BE  
CONCERNED.



YES! YOU ARE  
CORRECT  
INDEED!

IF SELLERS  
WERE ALL  
SHELTERED  
INDIVIDUALS  
OR BANKRUPT  
RULERS, I'D  
HAVE AN  
EASY TIME.



MR.  
LE ROI...

...YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
THE TEXT  
IS, DON'T  
YOU?





YES...

...HER  
NAME IS  
MARIEL.



"A CERTAIN  
SOMEONE"?



...I ASKED  
A CERTAIN  
SOMEONE  
ABOUT IT.



WHY WOULD  
YOU THINK I  
KNOW THAT?

HA!  
HA!  
HA!  
HA!  
HA!



OH  
HOH...



SHE SHOULD  
BE TRAVELING  
CAREFREE USING  
A SOUTHERN CITY  
AS A BASE RIGHT  
ABOUT NOW.



OH  
YES.



THAT'S A  
NAME I'VE  
NOT HEARD  
IN A LONG  
TIME.

IS SHE...  
IS MARIEL  
BOLAN  
WELL?



I'VE HAD  
MANY  
DEALINGS  
SINCE.

WHEN THE  
BOLAN FAMILY  
WENT BANKRUPT,  
I HELPED THEM  
PUT THEIR  
ASSETS IN  
ORDER.



...THAT  
IS  
GOOD.



I TOO  
AM AT A  
CROSSROAD.



YES, YES!  
INDEED  
IT IS!



...PERHAPS  
BOOKSELLING IS  
A JOB AT THE  
CROSSROADS OF  
MANY LIVES.



COULD YOU AT  
LEAST SELL ME  
INFORMATION ON  
THE BOOK?

MR. LE ROI,  
LET ME ASK  
YOU DIRECTLY.



MMM...

I SEE...  
I SEE.



BEYOND  
THAT, YOU  
MUST PRODUCE  
SOMETHING OF  
EQUIVALENT  
VALUE.



UNDER-  
STOOD. I'LL  
REVEAL A BIT  
OF INFO AND  
CONDITIONS.





I'VE NARROWED  
IT DOWN TO A  
COMPANY IN THE  
NORTHERN PART  
OF LENO'S HERE.

WHY  
HERE  
OF ALL  
PLACES?

OF COURSE,  
I DO NOT KNOW  
THE EXACT  
LOCATION.



THERE  
WAS AN  
OLD ABBEY  
THERE...



...TO A CELLAR  
NOT EVEN THE  
ABBOT HIMSELF  
HAD KNOWN  
ABOUT. AND  
FROM IT WAS  
RECOVERED  
A MOUNTAIN  
OF BOOKS.



...A LORD BEGAN  
CONSTRUCTION  
OF A NEW ABBEY.  
THUS, AMONG THE  
RUBBLE OF THE  
OLD ABBEY WAS  
DISCOVERED THE  
ENTRANCE...

IT HAD BEEN  
STRUCK BY  
LIGHTNING AND  
BURNED TO  
THE GROUND  
DECADES AGO,  
BUT HEARING  
ITS REPUTATION  
FOR PIETY...

A black and white illustration of two men in a library. The man in the foreground is older, with a beard and a headband, wearing a dark robe. He is holding a book open and looking at it intently. The man behind him is younger, also with a beard, looking over the older man's shoulder. They are surrounded by bookshelves filled with books.

**BUT EVEN THEN,  
A FEW REMAINED  
MYSTERIES,  
MOST OF WHICH  
WERE WRITTEN IN  
LANGUAGES OF  
FAR-OFF DESERT  
KINGDOMS OR  
SIMPLY TOO OLD.**

**MOST OF THEM  
WERE WRITTEN  
IN ANCIENT  
LANGUAGES.  
SCHOLARS WERE  
CALLED IN FROM  
FAR AND WIDE  
AND ASKED FOR  
THEIR APPRAISAL.**

A black and white illustration of a man in a dark robe sitting on the floor of a library. He is holding a quill and writing on a piece of parchment. He is surrounded by several large, open books. The background shows bookshelves and a window.

**WHILE THE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
COULD NOT READ  
THEM, HE STILL  
COPIED THE TITLES  
DOWN AS BEST HE  
COULD TO CREATE  
AN INDEX.**

A black and white illustration of a large, multi-story building with a prominent tower. The building has many windows and a complex roofline. In the foreground, there is a horse-drawn cart with a person sitting in it. The background shows a landscape with hills and a cloudy sky.

**DECIPHERING THEM  
REQUIRED EXTREME  
EFFORT, AND IF IT  
TURNED OUT THE BOOKS  
CONTAINED SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE, THE  
ABBEY'S REPUTATION  
WOULD PLUMMET...**

**WHETHER  
MOVED BY SUCH  
TALK OR NOT,  
THE LORD SOLD  
THE VOLUMES  
TO BOOK  
COLLECTORS TO  
RAISE MONEY  
FOR THE  
RECONSTRUCTION.**



*IT WAS I WHO THEY  
CALLED, FOR I AM  
VERY WELL VERSED  
IN THE WRITINGS  
OF THE DESERT.*



*SOME YEARS  
LATER, A CERTAIN  
COMPANY TOOK  
SOME OF HIS  
TREASURES AS  
COLLATERAL  
FOR A LOAN.*

*AS THE COMPANY  
SORTED THROUGH  
EACH ONE, IT CAME  
ACROSS THE INDEX  
IN QUESTION.*

*BUT THEY DID NOT  
KNOW ITS VALUE,  
SO THEY ASKED A  
BOOKSELLER.*



*SEEING THE TITLES  
OF BOOKS I KNEW  
TO BE FORBIDDEN,  
I BOUGHT THE  
INDEX ON THE SPOT  
AND CAST MY NET  
FAR AND WIDE.*



*SCHOLARS HAD  
TO INVESTIGATE  
EVERY SINGLE LINE  
AND WORD, BUT  
I ONLY NEEDED  
THE TITLE AND A  
BRIEF SUMMARY.*

...NO ONE COULD  
READ, CALAMITOUS  
MERELY FOR  
BEING WRITTEN,  
LET ALONE  
SURVIVING...



AND THEN  
ONE OF THE  
VOLUMES  
WAS CAUGHT.  
A BOOK OF  
FORBIDDEN  
TECHNIQUES  
THAT...

SO  
YOU CAN'T  
APPROACH  
UNTIL YOU'RE  
COMPLETELY  
PREPARED TO  
BUY IT...



TO BE BLUNT,  
I CAN ONLY PRAY  
THE COMPANY  
IT ENDED UP  
AT DOES NOT  
REALIZE IT'S  
VALUE.



IF I  
CONTACTED  
THEM TOO  
EAGERLY  
THEY'D KNOW  
SOMETHING  
WAS UP.





I'M CONFIDENT I  
CAN NEGOTIATE  
THE PURCHASE IF  
I HAVE ALL THE  
FUNDS IN ORDER.



IS WHO YOU'RE  
SELLING IT  
TO A SECRET  
AS WELL?



HE IS LORD  
NICHOLAS OF  
THE PRINCIPALITY  
OF RAONDILLE.

TO HIM...  
IF IT'S NOT  
FORBIDDEN, IT  
ISN'T WORTH  
HIS WHILE.



NO...

*IN  
EXCHANGE  
FOR GIVING  
FORBIDDEN  
INFORMATION TO  
A MAN TRUSTED  
BY THE HEAD  
OF THE HOUSE  
OF BOLAN...*



*...I WANT  
YOU TO  
LEND ME  
CAPITAL.*

.....



*NOW  
THEN, IT'S  
BUSINESS  
FROM  
HERE  
ON.*



*I INTEND TO  
SELL IT FOR A  
HUNDRED AND  
TWENTY GOLD  
LUMIONES.*







IF I GET INVOLVED,  
I'LL HAVE TO  
GO WITH LE  
ROI FOR HIS  
BOOK DEAL.

...I  
SEE...



IF IT COMES  
TO THAT, IT'LL  
TAKE A LOT OF  
TIME TO FIX...

HE MIGHT  
JUST TAKE  
THE MONEY  
AND RUN.



EVEN  
HOLD WOULD  
THINK THAT'S  
UNREASONABLE.



MY  
PROMISE TO  
HOLD WAS  
TO BRING  
HER TO  
YOTSU...

...NOT ELIMINATE  
EVERYTHING THAT  
MIGHT POSSIBLY  
THREATEN HER  
HOMELAND.





**I HAVE  
AN IDEA FOR  
THE FUNDS.  
CAN YOU  
GIVE ME A  
FEW DAYS?**

OF COURSE.  
SO LONG AS  
LORD NICHOLAS  
IS SOLVENT,  
IT'S A SAFE  
ASSERTION.



**SHE  
MUST,  
BUT...**



...IF I  
WAS TO  
FINANCE  
THIS...

...CAN YOU  
SAY WITH  
CERTAINTY  
IT WILL NOT  
END UP IN  
THE DEBAU  
COMPANY'S  
HANDS?



UNDER-  
STOOD.

AFTER THAT,  
WAIT FOR  
A REPLY BY  
POST-HORSE  
AND FORM A  
CONTRACT.



I'LL  
SEE ABOUT  
GETTING MY  
COMPANION  
TO CONCUR,  
POSSIBLY  
TONIGHT.



I AWAIT  
FORTUITOUS  
NEWS.

ON  
ENQUIRED



NORMALLY,  
SUCH A LETTER  
WOULD BE  
SKIMMED  
AND THEN  
THROWN IN THE  
FIREPLACE...

...BUT  
CONSIDERING  
THE NARWHAL  
INCIDENT, A  
LOAN WOULD  
BE FAIRLY  
PLAUSIBLE.



THE LETTER BY  
POST-HORSE  
WAS ADDRESSED  
TO LUD KIEMAN,  
HEAD OF THE  
KERUBE BRANCH  
OF THE ROWEN  
TRADE GUILD.

THE LETTER  
DETAILED  
HAMMERING  
OUT A DEAL  
FOR THE  
"FORBIDDEN  
BOOK" THAT  
STIRRED  
KERUBE UP  
ONCE.



THEY'LL  
PROBABLY  
ADD SOME  
STRICT  
CONDITIONS  
THOUGH...







...HE CAN  
PROBABLY  
LEARN A  
GREAT DEAL  
FROM ELGA.

COL'S  
STUDYING TO  
BE A CHURCH  
LAW STUDENT  
TO MOVE UP  
IN THE WORLD,  
AFTER ALL...



I SHALL NOT  
SPEAK ILL OF  
THAT BLOCKHEAD  
RECRUITING FOR  
HER ABBEY, BUT  
'TIS LIKE SHE'S  
TAKING HIM  
WITH HER...



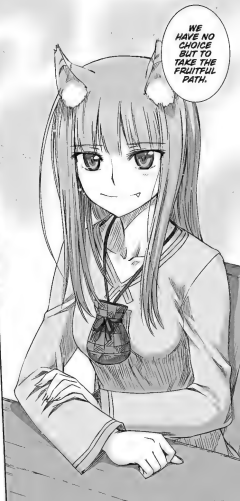
I'M A  
WISEWOLF,  
YOU FOOL.



IF IT'S LIKE  
THIS WITH  
COL, I DARE  
NOT IMAGINE  
IF I WERE  
TAKEN TOO.











YOUR  
PROMISE  
TO ME WAS  
THAT YOU  
WOULD  
TAKE ME TO  
YOURSELF.



SO LONG AS  
YOU PROVIDE ME  
TRUE DIRECTIONS  
THERE, I  
CONSIDER THAT  
FULFILLMENT OF  
THE PROMISE.



WHETHER  
OR NOT YOU  
COME WITH ME  
IS A MATTER OF  
SENTIMENT  
ONLY.





OH, GOD,  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE ME  
MY POWER-  
LESSNESS.

HAHA...



MM.  
STILL, IF THE  
PROFIT FROM  
THIS PAYS OFF  
THAT DEBT...



WELL, WITH  
ENOUGH GOOD  
FOOD AND WINE,  
I THINK I CAN  
ENJOY MYSELF  
FOR THAT  
LONG.



SO THEN...  
AT LEAST  
TEN DAYS  
BY WAGON,  
YOU SAID?



...THEN  
SURELY  
EVEN THE  
STUBBORNEST  
MAN OR GOD  
WOULD  
FORGIVE  
IT, EH?



A JOURNEY  
WITHOUT WINE  
AND SOFT  
BREAD IS A  
PATHETIC  
SIGHT  
INDEED.

COME,  
NOW THAT  
IT'S DECIDED,  
GO MAKE  
PREPARA-  
TIONS.



YOU'RE  
RIGHT. MIGHT  
AS WELL GO  
OUT WITH  
A FLOUR-  
ISH, EH?



EH?





I ARRIVED  
JUST  
YESTERDAY,  
BUT I HAVE  
ANOTHER  
LONG TRIP  
AHEAD.



AH...  
MUST'VE  
COME IN  
DURING  
THE PAST  
DAY.



I SEE.  
UNLUCKY  
FOR YOU.



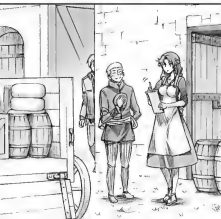
AH?



...BUT  
BECAUSE  
IT'S ALREADY  
SOLD.

IT LACKS A  
PRICE NOT OUT  
OF LAZINESS...









GOOD MORNING, MISS HELENA.



QUITE. HASTE CAN BE A VIRTUE, AFTER ALL.

ONE, TWO...

GOODNESS, YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.



NOTHING LIKE THAT. I WAS HOPING YOU'D LET ME BUY A LITTLE FROM YOU.



HAAH...

SO, WHAT PROFIT IS IT YOU'RE CHASING THIS TIME, EH?



HEY,  
YOU! YOU  
TRYING  
TO MAKE  
ME DO  
INVENTORY  
BY MYSELF  
!?



WHY NOT  
GO TO THE  
MARKETPLACE?  
I'M A LITTLE  
BUSY HERE.



HUH?

IF TAVERNS  
START SELLING  
GOODS, THE  
TOWN WOULD  
BE IN CHAOS.



709



...IF YOU'RE  
PLANNING TO  
USE ALL OF  
THIS IN YOUR  
COOKING.

CLEARLY  
SO...





**BUT AN OUTRIGHT BAN WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE CITY...WORST CASE, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN VIOLENT REBELLION BY FOREIGN TRADERS.**



**FURS WERE MUCH MORE PROFITABLE TO SELL AFTER BEING PROCESSED AND TURNED INTO CLOTHING, SO THE CRAFTSMEN HAD NO DESIRE TO SELL TO OUTSIDE TRADERS.**

**THERE WAS NO OUTRIGHT BAN ON SALES. THEY THOUGHT THIS SOLVED EVERYTHING, BUT THE CHURCH'S OTHER CONDITION WAS PROBLEMATIC.**



**SO, USING THE CHURCH, THEY REQUIRED THAT ALL BUSINESS BE CONDUCTED IN CASH, SINCE NO ONE CARRIED LARGE AMOUNTS OF COIN LONG DISTANCE.**

**AND THUS DID THEY LOAN A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO THE FOREIGN MERCHANTS.**



**THE CHURCH'S COFFERS WERE ALWAYS FULL OF MONEY. THEY BOUGHT SOMEONE THROUGH WHOM THEY COULD LEND TO THE OUTSIDE.**

**AND SUCH DISPUTES ALWAYS LEAVE THEIR CLAW MARKS BEHIND.**



**THE FURS WERE BOUGHT UP BY THE FOREIGN MERCHANTS, AND THE ENRAGED CRAFTSMEN RIOTED.**



A woman with long dark hair and a man with short light hair are in a shop. The woman is holding a small object. The man is looking at her.

EVEN IF YOU ALLOW THAT MANY TRADES HAPPEN ON CREDIT, YOU STILL NEED SMALL COINS. WE'RE IN REAL TROUBLE.

THERE'S NO MONEY ANYWHERE YOU GO. IT VANISHED LIKE SMOKE.



A woman with long dark hair is in a shop, looking at a small object. She is wearing a dark dress with a white bow at the back.

SINCE THE RIOT, IT'S LIKE THE MONEY'S DRIED UP FROM THE TOWN.



A man with short light hair is in a shop, looking at a small object. He is wearing a dark jacket.

THEY SAY ANYTHING SCARCE BECOMES DEAR.



A man with short light hair and a woman with long dark hair are in a shop. The woman is holding a small object. The man is looking at her.

AND NOW, EVEN A DULL COPPER IS STARTING TO LOOK AS BRILLIANT AS GOLD.

AND SO PEOPLE SPECULATE BY BUYING UP GOODS WHILE THE PRICE IS HIGH.



A woman with long dark hair is in a shop, looking at a small object. She is wearing a dark dress with a white bow at the back.

THERE'S TOO MUCH CASH IN THE HANDS OF THE FUR DEALERS.

BUT BECAUSE COIN SHORTAGE IS A PROBLEM FOR ANY TOWN, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE CAN IMPORT SOME COPPERS.





THAT  
YOU'D COME  
ALONE.



OH?



STILL,  
I'M A BIT  
SURPRISED.



I SUPPOSE  
THAT'S  
TRUE.



I'VE COME  
ALONE  
MORE TIMES  
THAN NOT.



AH  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!



MY  
COMPANION  
TOLD ME NOT  
TO THINK THAT  
A JEWEL CAN  
SHINE ALONE  
THOUGH.





AND BEST IF  
YOU COULD TAKE  
DELIVERY IN THE  
MORNING, BUT  
NOT TOO EARLY  
WE'RE A TAVERN,  
AFTER ALL.



AHH--  
SO  
PUNNY

SO, WILL  
THE NEXT  
FEW DAYS BE  
ALL RIGHT?

YES,  
IF YOU  
PLEASE.



UNDERSTOOD,  
NOT TOO  
LATE, NOT  
TOO EARLY.

MORNINGS ARE  
PROBABLY LIKE  
THIS, HUNNY?



IF YOU  
PLEASE.



IF IT'S URGENT,  
I'LL HAVE IT  
SENT TO YOUR  
INN ONCE IT  
ARRIVES.

NO, NOT  
YET, I  
HEAR.



OH RIGHT...  
HAS THE  
LETTER  
COME YET?



AFTER, I SAW  
MR. LE ROI  
AT PHILON'S  
GENERAL STORE  
AND TOLD HIM  
OF HOLD'S  
CONSENT...



....I POLITELY  
DECLINED  
MR. LE ROI'S  
PROPOSAL FOR  
A BANQUET TO  
CELEBRATE BUT  
WAS DELAYED  
GETTING BACK.



!



NO  
SURPRISE  
THE NIGHT  
IS COLD...





THEY  
ARRIVED A  
BIT AFTER  
YOU WENT  
OUT. BUT...

...THIS IS  
WHAT YOU  
SEARCHED  
FOR ON MY  
BEHALF.



DON'T  
TELL ME...  
YOU WERE  
THERE THE  
WHOLE  
TIME?

MM.



Holo!



I THOUGHT  
THAT IT  
WOULD BE  
FITTING TO  
LOOK AT IT  
WITH YOU.

















THE MAP DRAWN BY FORMER MERCENARY CHAPLAIN, CURRENT SILVERSMITH FRAN VONELY WAS A MAGNIFICENT THING.

AS WAS CUSTOMARY ON MAPS, THE FOUR CORNERS HAD BEEN DECORATED WITH DRAWINGS OF GODS OR SPIRITS.



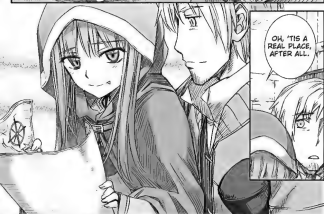
THERE, IN THE TOLKIEN REGION, THE HOWLING WOLF SEEMED TO BE ANNOUNCING THE NAME WRITTEN JUST UNDER ITS PAWS—



PERHAPS FRAN WAS DRAWING ON LEGENDS AND STORIES SHE HERSELF HAD COLLECTED.



HOLD'S EYES WERE DRAWN IN BY THE IMAGE OF A WOLF IN THE DEEP FORESTS OF MT. ROEP.





COME,  
YOU.

IF A  
GOD ONCE  
WORSHIPPED  
BY HUMANS  
SAYS IT, IT'S  
CERTAINLY  
CAPTURED A  
SORT OF  
TRUTH.



IF IT'S GIVEN  
YOU THAT SORT  
OF OPTIMISM,  
THEN OUR  
WORK HAS  
SUCCEEDED.



THANK  
YOU.



AND AFTER ALL  
THAT, THIS IS  
MY REWARD?



I'VE BEEN  
BEATEN,  
STABBED...

?

...AND NEARLY  
BANKRUPT.



ARE YOU  
DISSATISFIED,  
THEN?



Aye.

'TIS WELL,  
THEN.

CERTAINLY  
NOT.







...THREE  
OF US.



W-WELL...  
BUT...



THERE IS NO  
DEEP REASON  
FOR HIM TO  
BE TRAVELING  
WITH US.

HE JUST  
NEEDED TO  
REST HIS  
INJURED  
WINGS.  
THAT'S ALL.



COL CAME  
UPON US IN  
THE COURSE  
OF HIS OWN  
TRAVELS. HE  
EVEN SET ASIDE  
HIS OWN GOALS  
FOR THAT.



HE'S  
A STRONG-  
HEARTED PUP,  
BUT A PUP IS  
STILL A PUP.







*RATHER THAN  
JOINT PROFIT  
FOR TWO,  
SEPARATE  
PROFIT FOR  
ALL THREE.*

*AND THEN  
ALONG CAME  
THAT HARD-  
HEADED GIRL.*



*WHAT WAS  
TUGGING AT  
ME, THEN?  
DID I NOT  
TRUST HER  
ENOUGH...?*



*AS MUCH AS  
HER HARD-  
HEADEDNESS  
MAKES ME ILL,  
SHE'S PERFECT  
FOR COL.*



*SHE OUGHT  
TO TAKE THE  
LAD WITH  
HER. WE'LL  
SURELY SEE  
THEM AGAIN.*

*AT THE VERY  
LEAST, THERE'S  
PROFIT IN IT,  
AND THAT  
DUMPLING  
HEAD WILL GO  
SOUTH, AYE?*

*IT WAS ALL  
TOO FITTING A  
REASON TO  
DEAL  
WITH LE ROI  
AND END THEIR  
SHARED JOURNEY.*





WHOEVER IT  
WAS OUGHT TO  
BE PROUD THEY  
WERE BORN IN  
SUCH GRAND  
WILDERNESS,  
I'D SAY.

...MUCH  
MORE  
THAN DEEP  
MOUNTAINS  
AND  
FORESTS.

FOR PEOPLE  
FROM AROUND  
HERE, THE  
NAME TOLKIEN  
DOESN'T  
MEAN...



...MOUNTAINS  
THERE YET  
BOUNTIFUL?

ARE THE  
FORESTS  
AND...



WOLVES?



...AND  
WOLVES?



ABSURDLY SO.  
THE WORD IS  
THAT THE DEER  
ARE HUGE.



LOTS OF  
MERC'S  
CLIMB  
TO BE  
DISCOURAGED  
FROM  
TOLKIEH  
WOLVES.

...THE  
AREA'S  
THICK WITH  
PIERCE  
WOLVES.



YEAH...



WELL...  
ONE OF  
US IS.

OR ARE  
SEVERAL  
STAYING  
HERE, OR  
IN TOLKIEH,  
EVENT?

YOU'RE  
HEADING  
WITH MR.  
LE ROI TO  
ANOTHER  
CITY?



THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



YOU'LL  
STILL  
HAVE TO  
PAY TOLLS  
THOUGH.

I'LL WRITE  
YOU AN  
INTRODUCTION  
LETTER FOR  
A MERCENARY  
BAND YOU'LL  
LIKELY MEET.

IF I KNOW  
THE TOWN'S  
NAME, I'LL  
KNOW WHAT  
ROUTE YOU  
NEED.





...THERE'S  
GOING TO BE  
A BATTLE FOR  
CONTROL OF  
THE TOLKIEN  
REGION.

...IN ALL  
LIKELY-  
HOOD...



EH...?



.....  
...AND HE  
LEARNED  
OF IT.

I WAS  
WORRIED ABOUT  
THE YOUNG  
WOMAN SO  
CHECKED WITH A  
SLAVE TRADER  
ACQUAINTANCE  
JUST TO SEE...



A VETERAN  
MERCENARY  
BAND HAS  
MADE ADVANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS  
WITH THE  
SLAVE TRADERS.

OTHERWISE,  
THEY MIGHT BE  
TURNED AWAY IF  
THEY SHOWED  
UP ONE DAY  
LOADED WITH  
PRISONERS.



OR ELSE...

OR MAYBE  
THEY'RE  
THINKING  
THAT'S THE  
PERFECT PLACE  
TO SOURCE  
SLAVES.

BUT I HAVE  
NO IDEA WHAT  
THE GOAL IS.



M-MIGHT THIS  
HAVE SOME  
EFFECT ON  
OUR DEAL?



THEY  
STUCK  
A LOPE  
OF ORE?

UGH!

IT'S JUST  
THICK FORESTS  
AND ENDLESS  
MOUNTAIN  
STEPPE. THERE  
ARE BARELY  
ANY VILLAGES  
WORTH NAMING.



OF COURSE,  
I MIGHT BE  
OVERTHINKING  
THINGS.

ALL THE SLAVE  
TRADER SAID  
WAS THAT THEY'D  
RECEIVED WORD  
FROM A MERCENARY  
TROOP THAT THEY  
MIGHT BE BRINGING  
PRISONERS DOWN  
FROM TOLKIEN.



**THE MYURI  
MERCENARY  
BAND.**

**HOLO HAD  
FRIENDS IN HER  
HOMELAND.  
YUE...INTI...**



COME TO  
THINK OF IT,  
I THINK THE  
MERCENARY  
TROOP IN  
QUESTION HAS  
A WOLF ON ITS  
STANDARD.

A WOLF?



IT'S NOT A  
BIG TROOP,  
BUT IT'S  
BEEN AROUND  
FOR A LONG  
TIME. WHAT  
WAS IT...?

IT HAD  
A RATHER  
STRANGE  
NAME.

OH!





WONDER IF  
PARO AND MYRI  
ARE OKAY...

HOLD WOULD  
SOMETIMES  
CALL THEIR  
NAMES WHEN  
DRUNK.



THEY'RE  
A SMALL BAND,  
BUT I'VE HEARD  
THEY'RE WELL  
DISCIPLINED.  
THEIR LEADER'S  
ESPECIALLY  
CLEVER, IT'S  
SAID.

I'VE NEVER  
SUPPLIED THEM  
THOUGH, SO  
I ONLY KNOW  
THE NAME.



# SPICE & WOLF



HE'S DONE  
SPLENDIDLY.  
AND EATEN  
ENOUGH FOR  
THAT, TO  
BE SURE.

SEEMS  
IN FINE  
SPIRITS.

THERE,  
THERE.  
BEEN A  
WHILE,  
PARTNER.



I SEE.  
SO YOU GET  
PLENTY OF  
PRACTICE  
NEGOTIATING  
WHILE OUT ON  
THE ROAD, EH?

QUITE, AND I'M  
ALWAYS HAVING TO  
BARGAIN WITH HIM  
OVER HOW MUCH  
I HAVE TO FEED  
HIM TO GET HIM  
TO WALK A  
FEW MORE  
STEPS.







BUT IF 'TIS  
JUST A BIT  
LONGER, I CAN  
WIPE OUT A  
LITTLE MORE  
OF MY DEBT  
TO YOU.



Aye.

WE'VE BOTH  
BEEN PUT UP  
AS COLLATERAL  
BEFORE, SO  
WE WERE  
CONSIDERING.

GOOD-  
NESS...



IF  
IT ALL  
GOES  
WELL.



THIS MIGHT  
TAKE SOME  
TIME. SO ON  
AHEAD TO  
PHILON'S.

LE ROI AND  
COL MUST  
BE DONE  
PREPARING  
THE FOOD.





"HOWEVER, ONLY  
ON CONDITION  
LAWRENCE  
ACCOMPANIES  
LE ROI UNTIL  
THE PURCHASE  
AND SALE ARE  
COMPLETE."

THE NOTE  
READ, "WE  
LARGELY  
CONCUR WITH  
LENDING THE  
CAPITAL.

IT WAS  
THE REPLY  
TO THE  
MESSAGE  
I SENT TO  
KIEMAN  
BY POST-  
HORSE.

AND FURTHER,  
THE LENDER  
WILL VISIT  
LENOS TO  
SPEAK TO  
LE ROI.

PRETTY  
MUCH  
JUST AS I  
EXPECTED  
...

THE  
ENEMY  
WILL  
LIKELY  
ARRIVE IN  
NO TIME

THERE'S  
NO GOING  
BACK NOW.

HE'S  
SENDING  
A CLOSE  
ASSOCIATE?  
THAT'S  
NATURAL.

FROM  
ABU  
NOD



BATMAN  
COPYING

WHETHER I  
SHOULD TELL  
HOLD ABOUT  
MYURI IS A HARD  
QUESTION.  
MAYBE I  
SHOULD POSE  
IT TO GOD?

COME,  
WE'VE  
BROUGHT  
GIFTS!







OMG...

LOOK,  
WE'VE  
FOUND  
TODAY'S  
LUNCH!

OMG...

NON...



MAGNIFICENT,  
AREN'T THEY?  
SOME FOOL HAD  
TIPPED OVER A  
GREAT BARREL  
OF THEM AT  
THE DOCKS.



'TIS OUR  
REWARD FOR  
HELPING CATCH  
THEM. I WAS  
THE BEST AT  
CATCHING  
THEM.



YES.

WAS I  
NOT?



COME,  
COL.

OH, BYE. I AM A  
BIT DAMP. WELL,  
I'LL LEAVE THE  
PREPARATION  
TO YOU.

WELL...  
YOU STILL  
OUGHT TO  
CHANGE YOUR  
CLOTHES.



IF YOU WALK  
AROUND OUTSIDE  
LIKE THAT YOU'LL  
CATCH COLD. I'LL  
HAVE THE LADS  
HEAT A BATH.

AS  
FAR AS A  
CHANGE OF  
CLOTHES...

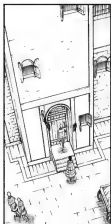


R-  
REALLY?



GOODNESS, BUT  
YOU'RE AMUSING  
GUESTS INDEED!  
DON'T WORRY,  
WE'LL MAKE READY  
SOME HOT WATER  
AND HANDLE THE  
PREPARATION.











**WHY  
SHOULD  
TWO LOVERS  
NOT HOLD  
HANDS?**



**TO BE  
FRANK, THE  
WAY YOU  
TWO ACT IS  
UNNATURAL..**



**I'M A HUMAN,  
AND SHE'S A  
WOLF. THERE'S  
NOTHING  
"NATURAL"  
ABOUT US.**



**THAT IS  
NOT WHAT  
I MEAN.**



**THEN  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?**











OF COURSE  
I WANT TO  
GO TO HER  
HOMELAND  
WITH HER.

I MEAN  
EXACTLY  
THAT.



IT'S BEST  
FOR HER,  
AND IT'S  
BEST FOR  
ME.

AND IT'S  
BEST FOR  
COL.



I WANT  
TO GO WITH  
HER, BUT THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
WON'T ALLOW  
THAT.

AND THE  
LOGICAL  
COURSE OF  
ACTION IS  
TO DO AS  
SHE SAYS.



PREVENTING THAT  
MEANS GOING TO  
A DISTANT TOWN  
WITH LE ROI FOR  
A BOOK DEAL.

BUT THE  
FOREST  
SHE CALLS  
HOME IS  
THREATENED  
WITH RUIN.



I'M A TRAVELING  
MERCHANT. SUCH  
A DETOUR WOULD  
KEEP ME FROM  
REPLENISHING GOODS  
AT SMALL VILLAGES  
FOR MY PROPER  
TRADE ROUTE.

TO GO  
TO HER  
HOMELAND  
AFTER MIGHT  
TAKE TWO  
WEEKS...OR  
A MONTH.



YOU AND SHE  
CAME TO OUR  
VILLAGE AND  
CREATED A  
MIRACLE, WHICH  
SAVED US ALL.

CAN THERE  
NOT BE A  
MIRACLE?

CAN YOU  
NOT...



IT'S THAT WE—OR AT LEAST I AM NOT A PURE ENOUGH SOUL TO BE SAVED BY A MIRACLE.

YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING WRONG OR MISTAKEN.



I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO SAY SO, BUT...

... NO.



IF A MIRACLE CANNOT SAVE YOU AS WELL...

...HOW CAN I GO ON TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD?



...THE MIYURI MERCENARIES ARE CLOSE TO HER HOMETOWN.

IT TURNS OUT...



MYURI, YOU SEE, IS THE NAME OF SOMEONE MY COMPANION SEPARATED FROM, CENTURIES AGO IN HER HOMELAND, WHOM SHE THOUGHT DEAD.



SHE DOESN'T KNOW YET. I TOLD PHILON NOT TO TELL HER.

HE'S PROBABLY ALIVE THOUGH.



SHOCK  
CRASH!!

...WE'VE  
GOTTEN  
THIS FAR, I  
MAY AS WELL  
CONFESS IT.

A MERCENARY  
BAND WOULD  
NEVER NAME  
THEMSELVES  
AFTER A WOMAN,  
AFTER ALL. IT'S  
RIDICULOUS, BUT  
I'M JEALOUS.

I WANT  
HER TO  
CONCENTRATE  
ON THE  
JOURNEY  
WITH ME  
UNTIL THEN.



WHY?



HORRIBLE,  
AREN'T I?

I WISHED  
THAT MYURI  
WOULD HAVE  
STAYED DEAD.



THAT IS INDEED  
AWFUL OF YOU.  
NO DOUBT  
GOD WILL  
PUNISH YOU.



AND YET I  
STILL DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND.



IT'S NONE  
OF YOUR  
BUSINESS.



*FEELING  
THE WAY  
YOU DO,  
YET TRYING  
TO ACT  
RATIONALLY...*



NOT  
EVEN AS  
A TEACHER  
OF GOD'S  
WORD.



THIS IS OUR  
PROBLEM AND  
OUR DECISION.  
IT'S NOT YOUR  
PLACE TO  
SAY WHAT WE  
SHOULD DO.



*...I SIMPLY  
DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
IT'S  
UNNATURAL.  
CHOOSE ONE  
OR THE  
OTHER.*





*BUT I  
WANTED  
TO REPAY  
MY DEBT  
TO BOTH  
OF YOU.*

*YOU'RE  
QUITE  
RIGHT.*



*IT DOESN'T  
SEEM TO ME THAT  
EITHER OF YOU  
ARE ACTING IN  
YOUR OWN BEST  
INTERESTS...*

*...SO I  
WANTED  
TO AT  
LEAST...*



*...ME,  
NO.*

*BUT  
SHE IS,  
I ASSURE  
YOU.*





**THEN MY  
QUESTION  
STILL  
STANDS.  
WHY WON'T  
YOU TURN  
AND FIGHT  
BACK?**



**YOUR  
INDECISION IS  
SO INFURIATING  
I CAN HARDLY  
STAND IT!**

**IT'S LIKE  
THERE ARE  
TWO EVANS.**



**GOD IS THE  
FRIEND OF THE  
RIGHTEOUS.  
YOU HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO FEAR!**



**WHY WON'T  
YOU JUST ACT  
THE WAY YOU  
HONESTLY  
FEEL?**



**WHY  
ARE YOU  
CONVINCED  
THAT  
SWALLOWING  
DOWN YOUR  
OWN OPINION  
IS BEST  
FOR HER?**



**BUT I'M  
A SIMPLE  
MERCHANT.**

**YOU'RE  
RIGHT  
ABOUT  
EVERY-  
THING.**





THEY'D PROBABLY  
HAND ELSA A  
GLASS OF WINE  
AND TELL HER  
TO CALM DOWN.

I WILL DO  
ALL I CAN TO  
ASSURE THEIR  
CORRECTNESS  
IN THE FACE  
OF GOD'S  
TEACHINGS.

IF A HUNDRED  
MERCHANTS  
HEARD THE  
STORY, THEY,  
PLUS TWENTY  
FRIENDS, WOULD  
ALL AGREE THAT  
HOLD'S WAY WAS  
THE RIGHT ONE.

EVEN MONEY  
ORDERS,  
MYSTERIOUS  
DOCUMENTS LETTING  
YOU MOVE MONEY  
WITHOUT CARRYING  
HEAVY COIN ON  
YOUR BACK, WERE  
NO MYSTERY ONCE  
EXPLAINED.

TO BEGIN  
WITH,  
MERCHANTS  
DID NOT  
POSSSESS  
ANY SUCH  
MAGICAL  
ABILITIES.

THEY WERE  
SIMPLY A WAY OF  
MOVING GOODS  
DOWN THE  
INVISIBLE CANAL  
CALLED CREDIT.

DEALS WITH  
MONEY ORDERS

BUYER  
DEAL WITH  
NUMBERS IN  
AN ACCOUNT  
INSTEAD OF COIN

SELL  
COMMODITIES  
TO COVER  
DIFFERENCE IN  
CASH OR CARRY  
TO NEXT DEAL



MM?



*EVEN IF ONE  
USED CREDIT  
BACKWARD,  
ALL THEY  
COULD STEAL  
WAS MONEY,  
NOT LIFE.*



*MONEY WAS  
NOT BEING  
MAGICALLY  
TRANSPORTED.  
THERE WAS A  
PRINCIPLE TO IT.*



*USE CREDIT  
BACKWARD?*











HONESTLY,  
I SUPPOSE  
NO ONE  
SAW YOU?



JUST WHAT  
SORT OF A  
FOOL DO YOU  
TAKE ME F—

ACHOO!



IS LUNCH  
PREPARED  
YET?

THEY'RE  
MAKING THE  
OVEN NOW.  
JUST A BIT  
LONGER.





...BUT  
IN NYOHSHIRA,  
YOU CAN HAVE  
STRONG, SNOW-  
CHILLED WINE  
BROUGHT  
TO YOU.

THIS  
SORT OF  
BATHING  
ISN'T  
BAD...



AS THE MEN  
AT THE DOCKS  
SAID, "THEY'RE  
BEST COVERED  
IN OLIVE OIL  
AND JUST  
ROASTED."



AND SINCE  
EVERYONE  
IN THE AREA  
DOES LIKEWISE,  
THEY ALL KEEP  
THE PRICES  
GOOD AND  
HIGH.

HOW  
ABOUT  
THAT,  
EH?



COME,  
MY  
BODY'S  
NEXT.

HURRY  
AND DRY  
YOURSELF  
OFF AND GET  
DRESSED.



THAT  
SHOULD BE  
ENOUGH  
FOR THE  
HAIR.



THERE'S A  
MERCENARY  
BAND...  
NEAR  
YOITSU.

?



AND WHAT  
SHALL I DO  
ONCE I'M  
CHANGED?



THEY CALL  
THEMSELVES...  
THE MYURI  
MERCENARIES.

...  
WHA  
—!?



FIND  
MR. LE ROI  
FOR ME.  
I NEED TO  
SEE HIM.



I HAVE A  
PROPOSAL  
FOR HIM.

WHAT'S  
YOUR AIM,  
THEN?!



I'M NOT  
GOING TO  
BREAK ANY  
PROMISES.



**DO  
YOU...**



**BUT  
I'M GOING  
TO PROPOSE  
A CHANGE  
IN PLANS,  
SO FAR AS  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
ALLOW.**



**I'M A  
MERCHANT.**



**...MEAN TO  
SAY THAT  
YOU'RE NOT  
GOING WITH  
DUMPLING  
HEAD...!?**



**I WOULD  
NEVER BREAK  
A CONTRACT  
SO EASILY.**





I OUGHT TO BE ABLE  
TO SAVE COL AND MISS  
ELSA THE TROUBLE OF  
GOING TO YOITSU  
AS WELL.

MAKE IT  
SO I DON'T  
HAVE TO GO  
WITH LE ROI.



CAN YOU  
DO SUCH A  
THING?



...IS  
THE ONLY  
WAY I CAN  
TURN AND  
FIGHT —  
AS A  
MERCHANT.

I HOPE SO.  
THIS...





DON'T YOU  
THINK I'VE  
MATURED  
SOME?



YOU  
FOOL....



THAT'S  
ALL RIGHT  
WITH ME.



TRULY,  
SUCH A  
FOOL!



LE ROI WAS  
GUARDED AT FIRST,  
BUT HE ACCEPTED  
THE CHANGE  
"PROVIDED YOU  
CAN FINANCE IT,  
MR. LAWRENCE."



AND TWO  
DAYS LATER,  
AN ENVOY  
ARRIVED FROM  
THE ROWEN  
TRADE GUILD'S  
KERLIEE  
BRANCH.





*PLEASSED  
TO MEET  
YOU,  
LE ROI.*

*I AM  
CALLED LUD  
KIEMAN.*



*THANK YOU  
FOR COMING  
SUCH A  
LONG WAY.*









SO, NO DOUBT IT  
CONSTANTLY DOES  
SUBSTANTIAL  
BUSINESS WITH A  
NUMBER OF OTHER  
COMPANIES.

...WHAT  
OF IT?



THE COMPANY  
THAT POSSESSES  
THE BOOK MR.  
LE ROI SEEKS IS  
COMPARATIVELY  
LARGE.



SURELY YOU  
DON'T MEAN  
MONEY ORDERS?  
THEY'RE JUST  
A CONVENIENT  
WAY OF MOVING  
MONEY.



IF SO, I MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO HELP MR.  
LE ROI PURCHASE  
THE BOOK EVEN  
FROM AFAR.



NOT IF WE  
USE THEM  
TO HARASS.



WE'LL  
ISSUE MULTIPLE  
MONEY ORDERS  
TO THE COMPANY  
FROM MANY  
OTHERS.



—HOMH?



WE'LL  
CHANGE ALL  
THE NAMES AND  
SEND ALL THE  
MONEY ORDERS  
IN AT ONCE.

THE  
COMPANY  
WILL START  
CASHING THEM  
WITHOUT  
WORRYING  
ABOUT THE  
STRANGE  
COINCIDENCE  
AT FIRST.



EACH FOR  
MAYBE A  
FEW DOZEN  
SILVERS. OR  
PERHAPS  
A HUNDRED  
OR TWO  
HUNDRED.



AND IN THE MIST OF ALL THIS, CUSTOMERS AND TRADING PARTNERS KEEP COMING.

"BUY THIS, BUY THAT, PAY WHAT YOU SAID YOU'D PAY..." THE COMPANY WILL BE IN A MESS.



THE MONEY WILL BE GONE FROM THEIR COFFERS, AND THE MONEY CHANGERS WILL CATCH WIND OF THIS AND HIKE UP THEIR EXCHANGE RATES.

...THEY'LL TURN SUSPICIOUS. BUT IT WILL ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

AS THEY START GETTING LOW ON COIN...



...INCLUDING ONES FROM THEIR REGULAR CUSTOMERS, WHICH ARE MALICIOUS? WHICH FROM PARTIES THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO ANGER?

AND WHAT WILL THE COMPANY DO NEXT? THE MONEY ORDERS WILL KEEP COMING IN...



"BUT THERE'S A CONDITION."



THAT'S WHERE MR. LE ROI SAYS...

"YOU SEEM TO BE IN TROUBLE, SO I'LL TAKE THESE MONEY ORDERS OFF YOUR HANDS."





EXACTLY.



AND THERE HE SAYS, "BY THE WAY, I HEARD YOU HAVE A CERTAIN VOLUME IN YOUR POSSESSION"?



ASSUMING IT'S NOT EXPOSED, IS THERE A BENEFIT TO US FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE?



AFTER ALL, COIN IS ANFULLY VALUABLE IN LENOS RIGHT NOW.

OF COURSE THERE IS.









AM I  
WRONG?

BUT YOU'VE  
ACCUMULATED A  
BIT TOO MUCH AGE  
AND EXPERIENCE TO  
CONSIDER SUCH CRUDE,  
RECKLESS THINGS.



HOWEVER, NO  
REASONABLE  
MIND WOULD  
COME UP  
WITH SUCH A  
PERFECT WAY  
TO HARASS...

...AND EVEN IF  
ONE DID, THEY  
WOULD HARDLY  
PROPOSE  
IT TO US, I  
CONCLUDED.



...PERHAPS  
SO.



...IS THIS  
THANKS TO  
SOMEONE  
WITH GREAT  
TENACITY YOU  
SAW BACK IN  
KERUBE?

I  
WONDER  
...

IT'S AN  
OVERDUE  
REWARD FOR  
UNCOVERING  
REYNOLDS'S  
COPPER COIN  
FRAUD.

SURE.

UM...

...IS IT  
REALLY...ALL  
RIGHT TO GIVE  
ME SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS?

SPICE & WOLF

AND  
IT'S BETTER  
TO GIVE YOU  
LONG-LASTING  
THINGS TO  
WEAR THAN A  
FEW COINS.

MM



AYE.  
THESE ARE  
GOOD.



THE  
HANTU  
STAY  
AS IS!

BUT IF WE  
OVERDO IT,  
YOU'LL BE A  
TARGET FOR  
SCOUNDRELS,  
SO WE'LL BE  
MODERATE.

RIGHT!



THE  
LEATHER IS  
SOFT AND  
THICK. I  
GUARANTEE  
IT.



WANT TO  
TRY THEM  
ON?

SURE!









I'M  
GLAD...



FORTUNATELY,  
HIS CHURCH  
SEEMS TO BE  
IN KIESCHEN,  
A CITY NOT  
FAR OFF.



IT WAS AT A  
COMPANY IN  
KIESCHEN, A  
MID-SIZED TOWN  
SOMEWHAT EAST  
OF LENOS.



AFTER A PAINFUL  
DISCUSSION,  
THE CONTRACT  
WITH MR. LE ROI  
WAS FORMALLY  
CONCLUDED...

...AND I WAS  
ABLE TO LEARN  
THE CONCRETE  
WHEREABOUTS  
OF THE  
FORBIDDEN  
BOOK.



...MR. LE ROI  
WOULD NEVER  
HAVE FORSAKEN  
US, EVEN SO.



HAD THE  
CHURCH BEEN  
IN MOUNTAINS  
IN THE OTHER  
DIRECTION...



ANYWAY...  
I'M VERY  
GLAD.



HE'S OFTEN  
MISTAKEN AS  
A FRIVOLOUS  
MAN BECAUSE  
HE PLAYS THE  
FOOL BUT...



I'M WELL  
AWARE OF  
THAT.

MORE  
THAN A FEW  
MERCHANTS  
BEHAVE LIKE  
THAT TO MAKE  
THEIR OPPONENTS  
LOWER THEIR  
GUARD.



TRUE.



THANK  
YOU FOR  
TAKING COL  
WITH YOU.

I INTEND TO  
HELP MR. COL  
SO LONG AS HE  
MIGHT BECOME  
A PROPER  
CHURCH LAW  
STUDENT.

NOT AT ALL...  
I HAVE A GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
HERE, AFTER  
ALL.



AND I DID  
"PUT YOU  
UP TO  
THIS."

LIKE DRAWING  
THE ARROW  
OF A BOW,  
THERE WAS  
GREATER PERIL  
IN DRAWING IT  
OUT BIT BY BIT  
OUT OF FEAR.

THEY'RE NEW BOOTS,  
SO TAKE IT EASY—  
ON THEM AT FIRST.

RIGHT.

IF THE DEAL GOES  
WELL, I'LL INFORM  
THE BOWEN  
TRADING GUILD  
IMMEDIATELY.

I WANT  
FORTUNE-  
TELLING  
NEWS.

HOLD YOUR  
BREATH AND  
JUST PULL.

GOOD-BYE,  
MR. LAWRENCE!

FAREWELLS  
ARE TOO  
BRIEF.

NO MATTER HOW  
ENGLISHED THE  
MOMENT, THE  
ACT KNOWN  
AS "BIDDING  
FAREWELL" IS  
OVER IN BUT  
AN INSTANT.







HOLO...









THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I WANT  
TO ASK.



HM?

COME,  
YOU.



WHY  
YOU  
ASK?

AH?

AH. WHY  
IS IT...THAT  
YOU'RE SO  
SET ON GOING  
TO YOTSU  
WITH ME?



YOU'RE NO FOOL,  
TRULY YOU'VE  
BRAINS ENOUGH TO  
UNDERSTAND REASON.  
SO WHY WAS MY  
NOTION TO GO  
ALONE SO HATEFUL  
TO YOU?

JEALOUSY OF  
MYURI, AYE, I COULD  
BELIEVE THAT ONCE  
YOU'D HEARD OF  
HIM, BUT THAT WAS  
A LATER ADDITION,  
WAS IT NOT?



NO...

COME  
NOW...

DO NOT MAKE  
SUCH A FACE.  
'TIS STRANGE  
TO ME.



IS IT SO  
STRANGE?



YOU STILL  
WANTED TO  
GO WITH ME,  
EVEN BEFORE  
YOU'D HEARD  
ABOUT THE  
MERCENARIES.

AND AS  
FOR WHY,  
I SIMPLY  
CANNOT...



'TIS NOT  
TRADE THAT  
COMES  
"AFTER"?

AT THIS  
LATE  
HOUR?



PERHAPS, BUT...  
YOU SAID OUR  
CONTRACT'S  
DONE WHEN  
I GUIDE YOU  
TO YOTSU...



I DON'T MUCH  
WANT TO SAY  
THIS, BUT I  
TRUST YOU'LL  
FORGIVE ME  
IF IT HURTS  
TO HEAR...

...BUT I  
THOUGHT YOU  
THE HEARTLESS  
SORT WHO'D PART  
WITH A SIMPLE  
GOOD-BYE?







To be continued in Volume 13...

# Special Thanks!!

MR. OKAMOTO ITTOKUJI,  
MR. TENITSU-TOI, MR. YACUMI,  
MR. N-TA, MR. OGIUCHI

## Afterword

HI, KEITO KOLME HERE, IN CHARGE OF THE ART FOR THE MANGA VERSION OF 'SPICE AND WOLF'. WE FINALLY REACHED SCENES WITH MISS ELSA I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO DRAW, AND LAWRENCE AND HOLD PART WAYS WITH COL, WHO'S BEEN WITH THEM SINCE VOLUME 8. THANKS TO ALL THE READERS WHO'VE STUCK WITH US THIS LONG. ALSO, THANKS FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART TO EDITOR MR. A, WHO JOINED US AROUND THE SAME TIME COL DID.

FROM THE NEXT VOLUME ON, IT'S A RUSH TO THE FINAL CHAPTER. NOW THAT HOLD AND LAWRENCE HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR FEELINGS, I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY WHERE THEIR TRAVELS TAKE THEM FROM HERE!

# SPICE & WOLF 12

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